

PIPE JOINT AND COUPLERS

ABSTRACT

A pipe joint between cylindrical male and female couplers having terminal end portions with cooperating cam surfaces that facilitate assembly of the couplers.

5 Cooperating projections on the couplers cam past one another when the couplers are assembled and restrain the couplers against separation. A gasket is interposed between the couplers, and the couplers are articulatable at least several degrees to permit some curvature to a string of pipe. The couplers have splines received in annular sockets in the ends of pipes, and the sockets are filled with adhesive to retain

10 the splines therein. The gasket is prelubricated and protected by a plastic wrap that also provides protection against ultraviolet rays. Cylindrical ring couplers are formed by extruding a strip having a coupler cross-sectional profile, cutting a length of the strip and fusing the ends at a joint. The joint is deburred and polished, and the ring is heated and placed on a mandrel where the ring cools to relieve stress in the plastic and

15 provide the final cylindrical configuration.